

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant elects to prosecute claims directed to Group II and it is noted that claims 3, 4, 6 to 14, 16, 22, and 23 fall within Group II.

Applicant elects to prosecute fibroblasts and cells of mesenchymal origin.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's requirement.

A careful examination of the subject matter indicates that all three groups are intertwined and that an examination of one Group will certainly turn up prior art in the other Groups to establish the relationship. Therefore, it would expedite the prosecution of the Application and expedite the examination procedure to have all of the claims examined in a single Application.

It should be noted that the Group II claims are dependent on the invention described in Group I.

With respect to the election of species, it should be noted that claim 9 has been amended, and this is in fact really a sub-generic claim. It is considered that claim 3 is generic to all five (5) of the patentably distinct species, and therefore claim 3 is considered to be generic, together with claims 9 and 22. Further, claim 9 have been amended so as to set forth cells of mesenchymal origin and, therefore, claim 3 should be further considered to be generic as claim 22. For this purpose, the cells of mesenchymal origin are elected, together with fibroblasts. To reply specifically, if the Examiner does not permit this election, then fibroblasts are elected for examination purposes.

Early and favorable reconsideration of this Application, together with the allowance of all of the claims is respectfully solicited.

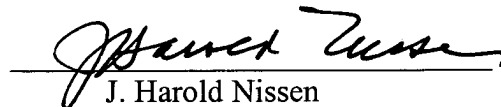
If there are any points outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully asked to call Applicant's attorney.

If any fees are needed, please charge them to our Deposit Account 50-3108.

Respectfully submitted,

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